

PC 44882

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BOOTLE.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
1946.

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Officer to the Public Assistance Committee, etc.**

BOOTLE TIMES, 30, ORIEL ROAD.

1947.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL, BOOTLE.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the County Borough of Bootle.*

June 1947.

MR. MAYOR, MRS. ALDERMAN PRITCHARD, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the seventy-fourth Annual Report on the work of the Health Department, which, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, is again curtailed.

Attention is directed to the following points of interest in the statistical and other records of the year:—

- (1) A rise in the birth rate to 27·9 per thousand coincident with, but greater than, the rise in the national birth rate, which was 19·1 per thousand.
- (2) A fall in the death rate to a low level only once before recorded in the Borough.
- (3) A rise in the infant mortality rate attributable largely to an increased number of deaths from prematurity.
- (4) A normal incidence of notifiable infectious disease except for epidemics of measles and whooping cough, fortunately not of severe type.
- (5) An interruption of the falling trend of mortality from tuberculosis and the recording of a death rate from this cause of 1·20 per thousand.
- (6) A further increase in the number of cases of gonorrhoea presenting themselves for treatment but little change in the incidence of syphilis.
- (7) The institution of a service of domestic help in cases of maternity, sickness, and infirmity.
- (8) The completion and opening of a residential hostel for the blind.

Finally, mention must be made of the housing position, mention which is unnecessary as a stimulus to action but relevant in an account of the health circumstances of the town, and in this connection it may be recorded that the physical, mental and moral hardship resulting from the shortage of houses is now greater than at any time in the history of the Borough.

I have pleasure in recording my indebtedness to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for the sympathetic reception given to recommendations made for the maintenance and development of public health work in the Borough, and in acknowledging the continued good service of my colleagues in the Department.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

F. T. H. WOOD,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1946.

Civilian Population (Registrar-General's estimate) at mid-year	
1946	64,350
Area in Acres (exclusive of river bed)	2,414
Inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to rate books ...	15,417
Uninhabited houses (end of 1946) according to rate books ...	120
Population at Census of 1931	76,770

Live Births—

Males 921; Females 876 ... Total 1797. Birth rate 27·9

Still Births—

Males 24; Females 30 ... Total 54. Rate per 1,000 total
(live and still) births 29·2

Total deaths ... 793 Death rate 12·3

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis ...	1	0·54
Other puerperal causes..	2	1·08

Number of deaths of Infants (under the age of one year) ... 135

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live
births—Legitimate, 73; Illegitimate, 105 Total 75

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 2

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 23

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 1·04

Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis per 1,000 1·20

The Rateable Value of the Borough as at April 1946 was £468,319

The estimated product of a Penny Rate for 1946-47 £1,861

In 1946-47 the General Rate was 16/5 in the pound (excluding water
rate and charges).

The cost of the Health Services during 1946-47 was estimated at
£68,142, equivalent to a rate of 3s. 1·54d. in the pound.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BOOTLE.

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ANNUAL REPORT
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

I.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—At the Census in 1881 the population enumerated was 27,374; in 1891, 49,217; in 1901, 58,556; in 1911, 69,876; in 1921, 76,487; and in 1931, 76,770.

On 21st May 1947 the Registrar-General intimated that his estimate of civilian population at mid-year 1946 was **64,350**. This estimate shows that the population of the Borough last year was some 5,690 more than in the summer of 1945, and the latest quarterly estimate of the Registrar-General gave the population as 66,340 on 31st December 1946.

Marriages.—The Superintendent Registrar has been good enough to furnish me with figures of marriages during recent years which show that the rise which occurred in the first two years of the war was followed by figures well below the normal until 1944; an increase is again recorded this year. The totals for the nine years commencing 1938 have been 653, 731, 891, 659, 576, 469, 491, 619 and 629 respectively.

Births.—During the year there were registered 1,797 births to Bootle parents, representing a birth rate of **27·9 per 1,000** of the population, that for England and Wales being 19·1. In 1945 the Bootle birth rate was 24·4 and for the decennium 1936-45 it was 23·4. There were 921 male and 876 female births. It will be noted that the birth rate, which reached a maximum after the first war of 29·7 in the first quarter of 1920 and a minimum in 1938, rose towards the end of the

late war, attained a maximum of 28·2 in 1944, fell somewhat in 1945, and this year has again risen; as usual, it is well above the national rate.

Period.	BOOTLE.		ENGLAND & WALES
	Total Births.	Rate per 1,000.	Rate per 1,000.
1873—1880 ...	6,846	38·6	35·4
1881—1890 ...	15,508	36·8	32·4
1891—1900 ...	17,716	33·2	29·9
1901—1910 ...	20,468	32·3	27·2
1911—1920 ...	20,748	27·6	21·8
1921—1930 ...	18,884	22·8	18·4
1931—1935 ...	8,367	21·8	15·0
1936—1940 ...	7,959	21·6	14·9
1941 ...	1,199	22·8	14·2
1942 ...	1,104	23·9	15·8
1943 ...	1,327	26·5	16·5
1944 ...	1,574	28·2	17·6
1945 ...	1,429	24·4	16·1
1946 ...	1,797	27·9	19·1

The illegitimate births numbered 105, and were 5·8 per cent. of the total. In 1945 the total number was 119, and in 1944, 120.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths of Bootle residents during 1946, whether within or without the Borough, was 793; this figure includes 121 who died in institutions within the Borough, 337 who died in transferred institutions in Liverpool, 46 who died in hospitals outside the Borough, and 12 who died in mental hospitals, making a total of 516 deaths in institutions.

The age and sex constitution of the present population of Bootle differs appreciably from that before the war, and consequently the death rates are not truly comparable with those of earlier years. The calculated rate of **12·3 per 1,000**, however, continues the improvement from the rate of 12·9 per thousand recorded in 1945, and 13·1 in 1944, and represents a crude death rate of a low level only once before recorded in the Borough.

The crude death-rate of the 126 great towns of England and Wales during 1946 was 12·7.

Period.	BOOTLE.		ENGLAND & WALES.
	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	Rate per 1,000.
1873—1880 ...	3,823	21·7	21·2
1881—1890 ...	8,260	19·9	19·1
1891—1900 ...	10,942	20·6	18·2
1901—1910 ...	11,400	17·8	15·4
1911—1920 ..	12,470	17·1	14·3
1921—1930 ...	10,336	13·5	12·1
1931—1935 ...	5,212	13·5	12·0
1936—1940 ...	5,019	13·8	12·5
1941 ...	1,227	23·3	12·9
1942 ...	629	13·6	11·6
1943 ...	745	14·9	12·1
1944 ...	732	13·1	11·6
1945 ...	754	12·9	11·4
1946 ...	793	12·3	11·5

The death-rate during the first quarter of the year was 15·0, during the second 13·3; the third, 9·5; and the fourth, 11·5.

The number of deaths which occurred in institutions was 516, i.e., 65·1 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 61·4 per cent. in 1945, and 57·2 per cent. in 1944. The increasing use made of institutions for the accommodation of cases of terminal illness is illustrated by a comparison with the percentage of 29 in 1920.

Infantile Mortality.—There were 135 deaths of infants, compared with 99 in 1945, and 96 in 1944. The infantile mortality rate was **75 per 1,000 births**, compared with 69 in 1945, and 75·7 in the decennium 1936 to 1945.

The rate of infantile mortality amongst males was 83, and amongst females 67. Throughout England and Wales the rate of infantile mortality was 43 per 1,000 births, and in the 126 great towns it was 46.

Thirty infants died before they were a week old, and a total of 63 of all the deaths under one year occurred in children under the age of one month. This is a neo-natal mortality rate of 35·1 per 1,000 births.

Young Child Mortality.—There were 22 deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years, as compared with 18 in 1945. The principal causes were—violence 5, bronchitis and pneumonia 4, tuberculosis 3, and meningitis 2.

Uncertified Deaths.—Seventy-five deaths (53 of residents and 22 of non-residents) were the subject of a Coroner's inquest, and in four cases the deaths were registered without certification by a medical man or a Coroner.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The causes of death, classified according to age, are shown in the table on page 38.

Epidemic Diseases.—The epidemic diseases (excluding influenza) were responsible for 28 deaths, as compared with the average of 35·7 during the preceding ten years. There were no deaths from scarlet fever, one from diphtheria, one from measles, and two from whooping cough. The deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis were 24 as against 15 during 1945; twenty-three were of infants under one year.

Respiratory Diseases.—The number of deaths from respiratory diseases, about the same as in 1945, was somewhat higher than that recorded in previous years. Pneumonia was responsible for 60 deaths, bronchitis for 38, and other respiratory diseases for 9, making the total deaths from respiratory diseases (excluding influenza and tuberculosis) 107, or 13·5 per cent. of the total deaths at all ages, as compared with 111, or 14·7 per cent. in 1945. Influenza was recorded as a cause of death in 8 cases, as against 3 in the preceding year.

Cancer.—Cancer was registered as the cause of death in 104 cases, as compared with 100 in the preceding year. This represents a cancer crude death-rate of 1·62 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1·01 during the years 1911 to 1920, with 0·78 per 1,000 during the first ten years of this century, and with 0·55 during the ten years 1891 to 1900.

Violence.—There were 40 deaths from violence, and 6 from suicide.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

Valuable information as to economic conditions having a bearing on the health of the town is obtained from data kindly supplied by the Clerk to the Public Assistance Committee, and by the Clerk to the Bootle Insurance Committee.

During the year ended 28th December 1946, £30,550 was expended in outdoor relief, including £385 to unemployment cases and £66 to the dependants of strikers during an industrial dispute (comparable figures for 1945 were £32,472, £350 and £4,746). Further, the annual return of persons in receipt of Poor Relief on the night of 28th December 1946 shows 584 persons to have been in receipt of institutional relief, of whom 82 were persons not suffering from sickness, accident, or bodily or mental infirmity, and 1,100 persons to have been in receipt of domiciliary relief. The total number of persons in receipt of Poor Relief at the end of the year was equivalent to 262 per 10,000 of the population, as compared with 303 at end of 1945.

The following table summarises available information as to public assistance during recent years, and shows a small improvement from the position in 1945.

Year.	Persons in receipt of relief on 1st January.		Total cost of outdoor relief.
	Institutional	Domiciliary	
			£
1931	475	2864	47,865
1932	375	3936	64,999
1933	455	5659	82,843
1934	431	6871	107,807
1935	410	7270	113,130
1936	548	6751	109,747
1937	511	6586	74,727
1938	480	4354	60,307
1939	464	4124	58,982
1940	357	2992	53,164
1941	413	1775	25,544
1942	412	1092	20,581
1943	471	1036	21,763
1944	512	923	27,184
1945	575	1236	32,472
1946	584	1100	30,550

The total number of insured persons in the Borough on 1st January 1947, was 35,286 or 54·8 per cent. of the total civilian population. There was a further rise in the number of prescriptions for insured persons made up during the year. It will be recalled that the number of these prescriptions dispensed rose from 50,738 to 164,253 between 1921 and 1937, with a corresponding increase in the annual cost of medicines from £1,955 to £5,149 6s. 5d., while this year the experience is 123,271 prescriptions at a cost of £6,574 11s. 7d.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC MEDICAL TREATMENT.

The control of the transferred medical services remains with the Public Assistance Committee, although in November 1931 the Council delegated to the Health Committee the powers contained in Part I of the Local Government Act, 1929, with respect to the provision of hospital accommodation.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE SICK.

Arrangements continued to operate for the reception of Bootle sick into the hospitals transferred to the Liverpool City Council after the passing of the Local Government Act, 1929. Admissions during the year numbered 3,823 (including 646 births and 1,819 admissions on Masters' or Medical Superintendents' Orders).

DOMICILIARY MEDICAL ATTENDANCE.

The administration of medical out-relief included in the functions transferred to the Council on 1st April 1930 is controlled by the Public Assistance Committee acting through the Medical Officer of Health, and the arrangements remain as described in earlier reports.

Examination of the returns of surgery consultations and home visits during the year showed that the work remained relatively light, the weekly average having been 31 surgery consultations and 5 home visits in Districts 1 and 2, and 41 surgery consultations and 9 home visits in District 3.

CANCER SCHEME.

The interim proposals of the Council under the Cancer Act, 1939, were outlined in the last Annual Report.

Under these arrangements 68 persons received in-patient treatment and 202 persons received out-patient treatment at voluntary hospitals during 1946 at net costs of £592 1s. 8d. and £131 19s. 8d. respectively; in addition, other persons were treated at approved municipal hospitals.

VACCINATION.

According to information supplied by the Vaccination Officer, 1,155 successful primary vaccinations and 31 successful re-vaccinations were performed during the year ended 30th September 1946, as compared with the previous year's figures of 1,091 and none respectively.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

As from 15th December 1944 the Accident and Sickness Ambulance Service has been worked by one supervisor and fourteen male drivers and attendants, working as two teams in three eight-hourly shifts.

During the period 12th December 1945 to 10th December 1946 the Service answered 3,071 calls, as under:—

	Day.	Night.	Total.
Hospital " transfers " ...	1545 ...	52 ...	1597
Accidents—			
Docks	384 ...	51 ...	435
Elsewhere	473 ...	60 ...	533
Sickness and Maternity..	73 ...	30 ...	103
Merseyside Hospitals			
Council	234 ...	63 ...	297
Other (unclassified) ...	88 ...	22 ...	110

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

Bootle is within the area of supply of the Liverpool Corporation Water Undertaking. The supply is by gravitation from upland sources in North Wales and Lancashire, is constant and, generally speaking,

all premises are supplied from the mains of the Undertaking. During the year the supply has been adequate in quantity and first-class in quality; bacteriological examinations are made daily within the area of supply, and the supplies both from Rivington and Lake Vyrnwy are treated through slow sand filters and chlorinated. The water supply generally is not plumbo-solvent.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Nuisances.—The number of nuisances for which notices were served on owners and occupiers was 9,011, as against 7,822 in 1945.

Prosecutions: Non-abatement of Nuisances, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93.—During the year 5 prosecutions were undertaken against owners of house property for non-compliance with abatement notices served upon them. In 3 cases the Magistrates made an order for the nuisances to be abated in a specified time; in the remaining two cases the nuisances were abated before the hearing; fines to a total of £2 10s. 0d. were imposed.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.—Five samples of feeding stuffs and five samples of fertilisers were obtained during the year.

Canal Boats.—During the year 41 visits of inspection were made to canal boats on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in the Borough. Three written notices were served during the year, and three infringements were remedied. Bootle is not a Registration Authority under the Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 249).

Verminous Infestation.—The procedure adopted for dealing with dwelling-houses infested by bed bugs has been described in previous Annual Reports and during the year 36 municipal houses and 24 privately-owned houses required and received disinfestation.

In view of the continued successful treatment of municipal houses found to be infested with bed bugs by the application of DDT it was decided to discontinue the treatment formerly in use, *i.e.*, spraying with Zaldecide, removal and renewal of affected woodwork, sub-floor treatment with sulphur dioxide and removal of furniture for treatment with Hydrogen Cyanide, from houses where disinfestation could not otherwise be effected—this latter treatment has been retained in special cases. The DDT is applied as a residual spray in a 5 per cent.

concentration in odourless distillate and as a dusting powder in a 10 per cent. concentration, and thirty-six municipal houses and twenty-four privately owned houses were so treated. In every case there was a good initial kill, and from subsequent observations continued over a period of three months there was evidence of a high degree of residual toxicity with no reinfestations.

Treatment with DDT has resulted in a considerable reduction in working costs and a greatly increased period of protective cover.

Houses found to be infested by cockroaches were also dealt with as described in earlier reports, and 102 municipal houses and 9 privately-owned houses were so treated during the year.

RAT INFESTATION.

Inspection of Lands and Buildings.—The staff of two permanent rodent operators made 5,834 inspections and re-inspections of lands and buildings other than dwelling-houses, comprising in the main food shops and other shops, factories, schools, offices and other business premises together with a refuse tip. From these inspections 77 infestations were found, 56 by rats and 21 by mice. The staff treated 27 of the premises, the remainder being treated either by servicing companies with departmental follow-up inspections, or being self-serviced under the direction of the staff. In all the staff laid 2,425 poison baits, with 914 takes and 122 bodies recovered. A “minor” infestation was recorded in all but two instances, the exceptions being a refuse tip and a cold store respectively, where “major” infestations were recorded, the former being infested by rats and the latter by mice. As a result of treatments carried out by the staff the tip was completely cleared of rats and the “major” infestation of mice at the cold store was reduced to a “minor” infestation.

Inspection of Private Dwellings.—The inspection of private dwelling-houses where infestations might be expected was continued during the year. In May Circular N.S. 12 was received from the Ministry of Food, in which financial assistance was offered to the extent of 60 per cent. of the cost incurred in the financial year 1946-47 in the destruction of rodents found in dwelling-houses as a result of systematic inspections. The scheme as outlined in the Circular was adopted by the Council and an additional operator was engaged on a temporary

basis to assist in making inspections of all dwelling-houses in the Borough. A total of 15,417 dwelling-houses was visited and infestations were recorded in 139 instances, 41 by rats and 98 by mice. All the infestations were slight in degree and extent, the rats being migrants in every case. Each infestation was treated by the staff, who laid 2,316 poison baits with 816 takes and 23 bodies recovered. Inspection and treatment was completed within the period specified in the Circular, and follow-up visits subsequently made showed all infestations to have been cleared.

Destruction of Sewer Rats.—In March Circular N.S. 11 was received from the Ministry of Food in which financial assistance was offered to the extent of 30 per cent. of all costs incurred for completion of two maintenance treatments in the financial year 1946-47. The scheme as outlined in the Circular was adopted by the Council, and two treatments of each of the two areas in the Borough where such treatment was necessary were carried out and completed within the stipulated period.

A third area, which showed no takes of pre-bait when the initial treatments were carried out in December 1944, was test baited with a like result.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Factories.—All factories are visited by an inspector appointed under the Act.

The total number of factories (including bakehouses) on the register was 278, viz. :—

With mechanical power	...	...	...	214
Without mechanical power	...	...	...	64

Five hundred visits were made to factories in the course of ordinary routine inspections. As a result of these visits 40 defects were found, in respect of which 16 informal notices were sent to owners or occupiers; in the remaining instances a verbal intimation was sufficient, and at the end of the year two defects were outstanding.

Outworkers.—Seven visits were made to premises and in no instance was there found to be employment in unsatisfactory premises.

Bakehouses.—The number of bakehouses in use at the end of the year was 18, of which 3 are basement bakehouses; the number of bakehouses with mechanical power is 12; a total of 49 visits was made to the bakehouses, the general condition of which was good.

Workplaces including Offices.—The number of workplaces on the register was 150 and 181 visits were made. The number of defects found was 36, of which 30 were remedied at the end of the year.

IV. SANITARY CONTROL OF THE FOOD SUPPLY.

MILK SUPPLY.

Source of Milk Supply.—That portion of the milk supply of the Borough not brought by rail or road is derived from cows kept in shippens, of which there were at the beginning of the year only two in the town, this figure by the end of the year being reduced to one; the cows now number 21, as compared with a figure for 1914 of about 550. The shippens received the careful attention of the Inspector, who paid in all 16 visits.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—*Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926 to 1943.*—There are 22 premises registered as dairies or milkshops in the Borough, with 2 premises registered as cow-sheds at the beginning of the year and one at the end of the year, and there are 46 registered retail purveyors of bottle milk only. One hundred and sixty-nine visits of inspection were made to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops during the year; on the whole it may be said that these premises are maintained in a satisfactory state.

Cleanliness and Safety of Milk.—The Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936-1943, prescribe the following special designations for milk, namely:—Tuberculin Tested, Accredited, and Pasteurised.

At the end of 1946 there was one Bootle dairyman holding a licence to produce Accredited Milk. one to produce Pasteurised Milk, two were

holding a Dealer's licence in respect of Pasteurised Milk, and one holding a Dealer's licence in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

With the object of promoting the cleanliness and safety of the local supply bacteriological examination of milk samples has not been limited to the designated milks, and 118 examinations in all were made during the year.

Milk and Tuberculosis.—The results of bacteriological examination of 29 samples of milk showed that none were infected with tubercle bacilli.

Pasteurised Milk.—During the past year in Bootle one licence was renewed for the production of pasteurised milk. The number of milk samples obtained from this holder during 1946 was 36, of which 31 conformed to the requirements of the Ministry of Health. One hundred and seven samples of pasteurised and heat-treated milk were submitted for examination by the phosphatase test; all but two satisfied the test.

PREPARATION OF ICE CREAM.

Bootle Corporation Act, 1930, Section 21, requires the registration of persons and premises used for the manufacture, etc., of ice cream, and gives powers for revocation of the registration of such persons if the Corporation is satisfied that the public health is, or is likely to be, endangered by any act or default of such persons.

At the end of the year the registrations totalled:—

Premises—

For the manufacture for sale and sale of ice cream	...	16
For the sale only of ice cream	... ..	12

Persons—

For the manufacture for sale and sale of ice cream	..	16
For the sale only of ice cream or water ices	... ..	19

These special powers of supervision were obtained because of the necessity of ensuring the wholesomeness of milk products eaten largely by children, and during last season 62 visits of inspection were made to registered premises, and 43 samples were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination as affording at present the most reliable index of the degree of cleanliness reached in the production of the ice cream. The result showed that coliform bacilli were absent in 1/100th c.c. in 24 samples and present in 19 samples, and that the total bacterial count was under 100,000 in 26 samples, and over that figure in 17 samples. The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, which came into partial operation on 1st May 1947 will improve powers of control of this commodity as the prescribed instruments and appliances become available.

The large variation in food value of samples of ice cream which were analysed is shown by noting that the fat content in 16 samples varied from 7.5 per cent. to 0.1 per cent., and the protein content from 4 per cent. to 0.8 per cent.

Analysis of two samples of water ices, the sale of which is increasing locally, showed them to contain 1.0 and 1.4 per cent. solid content, consisting of citric acid, sweetening, colouring and flavouring, and to be free from metallic contamination.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Butchers' Shops, etc.—Supervision of the materials and methods in foodshops, bakehouses, and factories, continued to be exercised by the Department on lines as indicated in previous Annual Reports.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.—The Public Analyst, to whom samples were submitted, was Mr W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., F.R.I.C., until his retirement on July 31st; his successor is Mr. J. F. Clark, M.Sc., D.I.C., F.R.I.C.

During the year 242 samples were taken, of which 15, or 6.2 per cent., were adulterated or not up to standard. One hundred and fifty-six of these were taken informally, and in cases where adulteration was detected formal samples were subsequently obtained in order that the necessary legal action might be instituted. One hundred and

twenty-two samples of milk were obtained, of which thirty-six were taken informally; in the other 86 cases, however, the procedure prescribed by the Act was carried out. Seven of the samples of milk (6 formal, one informal) were found to be adulterated.

In respect of six formal samples of milk found to be adulterated legal proceedings were instituted in one instance; this being in respect of milk deprived of 8 per cent. of its milk fat; the case was dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act, with costs amounting to £6 10s. 0d.

In another instance a sample taken from a vendor was found to be deficient in milk fat; following this two samples taken in course of delivery from the farmer to the vendor were found to be similarly deficient, and an appeal to cow sample which followed was also found to be deficient in milk fat. In the course of enquiries made at the farm it was found that the times of milking and periods between morning and afternoon milkings were irregular; the farmer was advised to equalise as nearly as possible the periods of milking between morning and afternoon, and after a month of milking at more regular times and at approximately twelve hour intervals, bulk samples were taken at both morning and afternoon milkings, with the result that the samples of milk in each case proved to be up to standard.

In the remaining instances the vendors were interviewed and cautioned.

The total number of samples obtained of milk produced outside the district was 82, of which 19 were taken in course of delivery.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations.—A total of 175 samples was examined under these Regulations for the presence of preservatives, including 122 of milk. All the samples were found to be correct.

V. PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year is summarised as follows:—

There was no notification of small-pox, cholera, plague, typhus fever, relapsing or continued fever, trench fever, or encephalitis lethargica.

	Cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Enteric Fever	1 (1)	1	—
Scarlet Fever	298 (5)	159	—
Diphtheria	141 (87)	141	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	7	—
Erysipelas	15	4	—
Measles	408	24	1
Whooping Cough	124 (1)	20	2
Infantile Diarrhoea (under two years) voluntarily notifiable ...	2	2	23
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pncumonia	46 (1)	21	18
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	6	6	1
Malaria	4	3	—
Dysentery	3	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	—
*Tuberculosis—			
(a) Pulmonary	161	97	67
(b) Non-Pulmonary	29	13	10

* Primary notifications.

(The totals in brackets give number of cases where diagnosis was not confirmed.)

LINACRE HOSPITAL.

The buildings of the Hospital for Infectious Diseases continued to be occupied by Bootle General Hospital throughout the year, and cases of infectious disease requiring hospital accommodation were admitted to the Liverpool City Hospitals in accordance with the arrangements made in September 1939.

ENTERIC FEVER.

One case of paratyphoid fever was notified during the year; the diagnosis was revised to enteritis after admission of the patient to Fazakerley Hospital.

SCARLET FEVER.

Incidence.—The total cases for the year rose from 250 in 1945 to 298 (five of these were re-classified later), constituting an incidence of 4·6 per 1,000 of the estimated population. There were no deaths.

In each of twenty-seven houses two cases of scarlet fever occurred, in two houses there were three cases, and in one house there were four cases.

Hospital Isolation in Scarlet Fever.—One hundred and fifty-nine cases, representing 53 per cent. of the notifications, were admitted to the Liverpool Isolation Hospitals during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.

Incidence.—There was a small increase in the incidence of diphtheria from the figure of the previous year, and in all 141 cases were notified (87 were re-classified later) as compared with 138 in 1945 and 108 in 1944, and an average of 232 for the ten years ended 1945. The notification rate was 2·2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, and the case fatality was 0·71. All the notified cases were removed to Liverpool Isolation Hospitals during the year.

The occurrence of a secondary case of diphtheria in an infected household was recorded on eight occasions, and the occurrence of a third case on three occasions.

Mortality.—There was one death from diphtheria during the year.

Prevention.—During 1932 a scheme was inaugurated whereby an offer of immunisation against diphtheria was made to the parents of infants and young children in the Borough. Last year, a total of 1,420 children (compared with 1,369 during 1945) completed the series of inoculations, making with those inoculated in preceding years a grand total of 15,390; further, 450 children previously inoculated received a reinforcing injection on reaching school age. The present position is that 42·5 per cent. of children under five years of age, and 64·1 per cent. of children between the ages of five and fifteen years have been protected against this preventable disease. There was an encouraging rise to 52 per cent. in the acceptance rate in respect of the one year olds, and intensive efforts are being continued to improve on the present position that two-thirds of the school population have been protected against this preventable disease.

The following table shows year by year, since the inauguration of the scheme, the number of children completing the series of inoculations:—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

20

Age at date of inoculation.	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	Total.
Under one year	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	3	2	1	4	4	48	53	94	Under five years — 2952
1-2 years	6	5	36	34	31	32	46	44	43	45	196	314	459	720	649	
2-3 "	12	11	39	75	40	48	46	46	46	64	239	250	157	154	81	
3-4 "	15	22	62	70	47	46	33	49	29	108	208	156	74	91	60	
4-5 "	18	28	43	55	46	35	33	37	22	76	209	193	100	52	64	
5-6 "	142	242	311	279	278	191	334	66	15	213	405	338	221	211	352	5-10 years — 4155
6-7 "	237	224	194	267	232	261	190	193	4	440	290	135	71	57	79	
7-8 "	45	242	35	40	21	40	23	10	6	115	135	56	16	11	10	
8-9 "	4	62	12	10	14	12	9	7	3	44	101	52	9	6	5	
9-10 "	2	20	9	6	4	3	1	6	—	28	52	41	5	5	4	
10-11 "	1	1	3	10	7	4	4	1	1	45	90	52	4	2	5	10-15 years — 3629
11-12 "	—	2	5	10	4	1	4	4	1	50	56	45	3	2	3	
12-13 "	—	1	1	4	7	2	—	1	—	38	80	38	—	3	6	
13-14 "	—	—	3	2	4	—	1	—	—	36	96	22	4	—	2	
14-15 "	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	30	58	15	—	—	1	
15 years & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	2	1	—	4	4258
Age not known	100	120	19	2	76	29	20	5	—	9	13	—	—	2	1	396
TOTALS	582	980	773	865	812	705	747	478	172	1342	2260	1713	1172	1369	1420	15,390

OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia.—Forty-six notifications (one re-classified later) of primary and influenzal pneumonia were received. Eight deaths from influenza and 18 from primary pneumonia were recorded.

Measles.—Under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1940, 408 cases of measles were notified; there was one death. In addition one notified case of whooping cough was later re-diagnosed as measles.

Whooping Cough.—Whooping Cough caused two deaths during 1946, compared with one in 1945 and seven in 1944. The death-rate was 0·03 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 0·02 throughout England and Wales. The number of cases notified during the year was 124 (one case was later re-diagnosed as measles).

Diarrhoea.—Deaths from this disease numbered twenty-four, or a rate of 0·37 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0·26 last year. Twenty-three of the deaths occurred in infants under one year of age, giving a rate per 1,000 births of 12·8 in Bootle.

VI. TUBERCULOSIS.

Notification Register.—The register on 31st December 1946 included 235 males and 209 females suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 60 males and 79 females suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, making a total of 583 cases, the same total as at the end of 1945.

Incidence.—The total number of new cases notified during the year under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930 was 190 (161 pulmonary and 29 non-pulmonary) as compared with the figures of 150, 142, 169, 186, 162, and 173 in the years from 1940 onwards.

Mortality.—The number of deaths caused by tuberculosis during 1946 was 77, or one death in every ten, giving a death-rate from this cause of 1·20 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 1·01 in 1945, 1·14 in 1944, and 1·28 in 1943; it was 1·20 for the ten years ended 1945.

Period.	Bootle		England & Wales.
	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	Rate per 1,000.
1891-1900	1106	2·17	2·01
1901-1910	1127	1·76	1·65
1911-1920	1370	1·82	1·42
1921-1925	652	1·70	1·08
1926-1930	572	1·49	0·94
1931-1935	537	1·39	0·81
1936-1940	411	1·12	0·67
1941	85	1·62	0·73
1942	63	1·37	0·65
1943	64	1·28	0·67
1944	64	1·14	0·63
1945	59	1·01	0·62
1946	77	1·20	

Dispensary Register.—A register is maintained of all cases of tuberculosis receiving public medical treatment. On 31st December 1946 the number of definite cases on the register was 448, as against 434 on 1st January 1946.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Incidence.—One hundred and sixty-one new cases suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1946, an increase of sixteen over the previous year; the number includes 19 cases not formally notified. The numbers notified in the five preceding years were 105, 133, 157, 135 and 142 respectively. In the case of four the first intimation was obtained from the death returns, while in seventeen other cases notification was made at intervals of less than three months before death. The non-notified deaths, therefore, numbered 6·0 per cent. of the total of 67 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Mortality.—During the year 67 deaths were certified to be due to pulmonary tuberculosis, representing a rate of 1·04 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0·87 in 1945, and 1·00 in 1944. There were 35 deaths among males and 32 among females.

Chest Clinic.—During the year the Tuberculosis Officer examined 330 patients newly referred; 266 patients were sent by private practitioners, 12 by the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic Medical Officers, 16 by Army Medical Boards, and 36 by the School Medical Officers for opinion preliminary to notification. Attention continued to be paid to securing the attendance for examination of contacts of notified cases, and during the year 70 were so examined.

The total attendances at the Clinic during the year numbered 2,873, and 3,146 visits for various other purposes were made in addition; 424 specimens of sputum were examined, giving a positive result in 69 cases. The Tuberculosis Visitors made 1,058 visits to homes of tuberculous patients.

During the year 778 X-ray examinations were made at the Bootle General Hospital.

Maghull Sanatorium.—During the year 35 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium with an average length of stay of 164 days for the 40 cases discharged during the year. At the end of the year there were 9 males and 9 females in the Sanatorium. In addition, 62 other cases were admitted to hospitals outside the Borough, owing to the non-availability of the pulmonary tuberculosis beds at Linacre Hospital.

MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES.

During the year 106 applications for maintenance allowances under Memorandum 266/T. of the Ministry of Health were granted, the total disbursed amounting to £2,939 6s. 4d. In addition special payments were made for the provision of pocket money to patients in sanatoria, and with these and other allowances the total expenditure was £3,074 16s. 4d., as compared with £2,809 5s. 2d. in 1945.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 29 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, as compared with 31 in 1945 and 27 in 1944, namely:—7 bones and joints, 6 glands, 8 meninges, and 8 other sites; and there were ten deaths registered. The agreement with the Leasowe Hospital for Children for the maintenance of beds for children suffering from non-

pulmonary tuberculosis remained in force, and at the beginning of the year five cases were in hospital; 6 cases were admitted, 2 were discharged, and 9 were still in hospital at the end of the year.

The scheme for admission to general or special hospitals of cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and for payment by the Council of the charges for maintenance and treatment in cases recommended or approved by the Tuberculosis Officer, was continued; during the year seven such patients were admitted.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.—No action was taken under the above Regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1936: Section 172.—No action was taken under this Section dealing with the compulsory removal of cases of tuberculosis to hospital.

VII. VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Council's scheme for the treatment and control of Venereal Diseases remains as described in previous reports, and there was a sustained national and local publicity campaign directed to secure the avoidance of infection or alternatively the continuance of efficient treatment.

The Annual Statistical Report of the Medical Officer of the Treatment Centre shows 692 persons under treatment on 31st December 1946, as against 599 on 1st January 1946, and a decrease in new cases, the figure being 356 as contrasted with 433 in 1945.

The total attendances for treatment made at the Centre during the year show a decrease from 10,560 to 9,579; the figure includes 793 attendances made between clinic days for the treatment of gonorrhoea at the irrigation centre. The average attendance at the male clinics was 32, and at the female clinics 22. During 1946, 270 cases were discharged on completion of treatment and observation as against 212 in the previous year.

The following table is a statement of the number of cases presenting themselves for treatment during the last six years:—

BOOTLE VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
New Cases (total)	315	307	379	421	433	356
New Cases (syphilis)	78	101	104	8	84	94
New Cases (gonorrhoea)	129	115	113	11	206	249
Total attendances (excluding Irrigation Department)	5392	7071	9167	9407	8847	8786
Irrigation Department attendances	1573	2627	3269	2261	1713	793
In-patient Days	41	132	176	178	106	140
No. discharged after completion of observation and treatment	124	85	97	198	212	270
No. who ceased to attend after completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure	26	1	1	1	11	44

Bootle residents accounted for 35.6 per cent. of the cases under treatment at the Bootle Hospital Centre, the Authorities contributing the next largest numbers of cases being Lancashire County Council with 26.6 per cent., and Liverpool with 19.6 per cent.

Advantage has continued to be taken of intimations of suspected sources of infection to endeavour to bring the infecting agent under treatment, and in addition the clinic staff engaged on this duty have improved the "follow up" practice by visiting persistent defaulters from treatment to persuade them to receive attention; during 1946, 233 such visits were paid to 193 defaulters, and resumption of attendance was secured in 151 of these cases.

Under Defence Regulation 33B calling for notification of "contacts" of cases of venereal disease five Forms I. were received, and in four instances the contact was found and attended for examination; there was one case in which two Forms I. were received in respect of the same person, and the action taken resulted in the contact resuming treatment.

VIII. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL SERVICES.

Home Visiting of Expectant Mothers.—Much can be done to promote normal childbirth by careful instruction as to general and personal hygiene and as to the need for suitable food, open air, exercise and rest, adequate sleep, and properly devised clothing. The Health Visitors paid 1,054 home visits and the Municipal Midwives paid 2,130 home visits to expectant mothers.

Ante-Natal Clinics.—Four Ante-Natal Consultations were held each week until September, when the increasing attendances made it necessary to establish a fifth session. During the year 1,489 new cases attended, corresponding to 83 per cent. of the total registered births; in addition, 299 cases carried over from the preceding year continued under supervision, and a total of 6,138 attendances was made, with an average of 28 persons per consultation. Further, it should be noted that patients intending to enter Walton Hospital for confinement usually attend the Ante-Natal Clinic held at that Institution.

Dental Treatment of Expectant and Nursing Mothers.—At the end of the year three half-days weekly were being devoted to the dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and the treatment given during the year has been in the nature of extractions and the supply of artificial dentures.

The number of patients treated during the year was 198, as compared with 173 in 1945, and the estimated cost of dentures supplied was £115 4s. 9d., of which the patients' contributions were assessed at £78 1s. 9d.

MATERNAL WELFARE.

The Rules of the Central Midwives' Board require medical help to be sought by the midwife in all cases of illness of the patient, or the child, or of any abnormality occurring during pregnancy, labour, or lying-in, and 211 records of sending for medical help were received.

The Local Supervising Authority is responsible for the payment of fees to doctors called in by midwives, and in 1946 120 accounts, totalling £188 9s. 0d., in respect of cases where the doctor himself was unable to recover the fee, were sent in, as compared with 61 accounts, totalling £97 18s. 0d., in 1945. Of this sum, the contributions to be recovered from the patients were assessed at £100 13s. 6d.

Milk Assistance Scheme.—The Council's Milk Assistance Scheme, under which dried milk is granted to expectant mothers and infants, was continued in full until 21st August 1940, on which date the scheme

of the Ministry of Food for issuing National Dried Milk began to operate, with the result that the need for the Council's Scheme almost disappeared. Arrangements were made locally for the distribution of National Dried Milk to be made through the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics of the Local Authority as was the practice under the Council's Scheme.

Milk to the value of £1,680 17s. 8d. and Maltoline, Virol, Virolax and Emulsion to the value of £385 6s. 7d., making a total cost of £2,066 4s. 3d., was sold or issued free under the Council's Scheme, and under the Ministry of Food Scheme 22,408 packets (20 ounce size) were sold, and 2,054 packets were issued free on an income scale basis.

Institutional Provision for Maternity Cases.—Last year 646 patients were delivered in Walton Hospital at the cost of the Public Assistance Committee, 224 in the Municipal Maternity Home, and in addition 137 patients were delivered in voluntary hospitals. The total of 1,007 represents 56 per cent. of the births registered during the year, as compared with 54 per cent. during 1945.

Maternity Home.—The Municipal Maternity Home of eight beds plus two separation beds was re-opened on July 25th 1945, and 227 cases were admitted during the year; 203 were delivered by midwives and 21 by doctors; three cases were admitted after delivery. There were five still-births, and two infants died, one from prematurity and the other from infantile convulsions and congenital cardiac insufficiency; there was no maternal death. Medical assistance was sought in 86 instances. There were no notified cases of puerperal pyrexia. The average duration of stay in the Home was 13·0 days.

Nursing Homes.—One Nursing Home of 11 beds (7 maternity) was on the Register throughout the year, and two others of 6 beds and 3 beds respectively were added to the Register under the Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 187 to 194.

Puerperal Morbidity and Mortality.—There was one death from puerperal fever, and two deaths were due to other puerperal causes. The circumstances of the confinements were investigated by the Medical

Officer of Health, and confidential reports (not identifying the patients) were sent to the Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality set up the Ministry of Health.

The deaths thus classified to pregnancy and child-birth give a maternal mortality rate of 1.62 per 1,000 (live and still) births, and although there have been fluctuations in this rate, the local experience is, in general, more favourable than that of the country as a whole.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The staff of eight midwives during the year attended 656 patients, delivering 610 as midwives and assisting in 46 other instances as maternity nurses. Midwives book their own patients and are responsible for their ante-natal care from that date.

It will be seen that including maternity cases delivered in Walton Hospital and the Maternity Home, the municipality was responsible during 1946 for the conduct of 90 per cent. of the maternity work of the Borough.

CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births.—The number of births notified under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as adjusted by transferred notifications totalled 1,747 live births and 48 still births.

Births Registered.—The number of live births registered in the district was 1,236, from which 239 are to be deducted as born in Bootle to residents from other districts, and to which are to be added 800 births to Bootle parents temporarily out of the town; the corrected figure is therefore 1,797. Of the number registered 105 were illegitimate.

The number of still births registered was 54, as against 41 for 1945.

Infant Deaths.—There were 135 deaths of infants under the age of twelve months, which total expressed as a rate of 1,000 births gives an infant mortality rate of 75, compared with 69 during 1945.

The trend of infant mortality in recent years is set out in the following table:—

Years			BOOTLE	England and Wales
1901-05	...	...	166	138
1906-10	...	...	130	117
1911-15	...	...	133	110
1916-20	...	...	103	91
1921-25	...	...	91	76
1926-30	...	..	89	68
1931-35	...	...	87	62
1936-40	...	...	74	55
1941	...	...	108	59
1942	...	...	72	49
1943	...	...	76	49
1944	...	..	61	46
1945	...	...	69	46
1946	...	...	75	43

Mortality was highest during the last quarter, with 37 deaths registered as against 29 in the highest quarter of 1945.

The most important of the causes of death were:—bronchitis and pneumonia 31, premature birth 31, diarrhoea and enteritis 23, congenital malformations 7, convulsions 7, atelectasis 5, and meningitis 3.

The rate of infantile mortality among legitimate infants was 73, and among illegitimate infants it was 105.

Neo-Natal Mortality.—Thirty children died before they were a week old, and a total of 63, of all the deaths under one year, occurred in children under the age of one month. This is a neo-natal mortality rate of 35.1 per 1,000 births, and the large contribution which this makes to the general infantile mortality rate points to the field in which future effort may effect a saving of infant lives.

Care of Premature Infants.—Special notification is made of infants in which the birth weight is 5½ lbs. or less, and in such cases every effort is made to secure a separate bedroom for mother and infant and to provide special equipment including a draught-proof cot with detachable lining, warm suitable clothing, hot water bottles, and special

feeding-bottles; if any of the latter requirements are not available they are provided on loan from the Health Department. During the year 44 notifications of premature birth were received—19 from births at home and 25 from births in maternity homes: no information is available as to the number of premature births to Bootle mothers confined in Walton Hospital. There were 31 deaths certified as due to prematurity, two at own home, 27 at Walton Hospital, one at Alder Hey Hospittal, and one at Liverpool Maternity Hospital.

On notification of a premature birth occurring at home, a medical officer of the Department gets in touch with the doctor in attendance, and if necessary visits the home to discuss the position with the doctor and the midwife, and before the midwife relinquishes responsibility arrangements are made for the health visitor for the district to take over early supervision. It will be seen however from the figures above that in this area the problem is largely one for hospital staffs.

Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 to 1937.—Seven cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified during the year and all received hospital treatment. Two cases were still under treatment at the end of the year, one case removed from the area, and in the four remaining cases the vision was unimpaired. There were five notifications in 1945.

Home Visitation of Infants.—There are nine officers on the Health visiting staff, some of whom, however, are also engaged in the school medical and tuberculosis services; the establishment is, therefore, equivalent to seven and one-half visitors giving their whole time to Maternity and Child Welfare duties in Bootle. The staff paid 19,165 home visits in all, including 8,638 visits to infants under one year, an average of 4·8 visits to each infant.

Supervision of Young Children by Health Visitors.—During the year the Health Visitors paid 8,433 home visits to children from one to five years.

Infant Welfare Clinics.—During the year four infant clinic sessions were conducted weekly.

The following tabular statement gives the numbers of new infants presented for examination and advice, and the total yearly and average attendances at each Clinic:—

Clinic.	New Cases.			Attendances.				
	Under one year.	One to five years.	Total.	Under one year.	One to five years.	Total.	No. of Sessions	Average attendance at clinic.
Health Centre—								
Monday afternoon ..	261	38	299	2082	224	2306	47	49.0
Wednesday afternoon	322	60	382	2940	533	3473	50	69.4
Thursday afternoon .	171	28	199	1117	201	1318	50	26.3
School Medical Offices—								
Tuesday afternoon ..	350	45	395	2919	272	3191	51	62.5
Totals ...	1104	171	1275	9058	1230	10288	198	51.9

Supply of Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices.—The scheme of the Ministry of Food for distribution of fruit juices and cod liver oil to mothers and young children was continued during the year, and this valuable supplement to the vitamin content of their diet is now available, free or on payment, to all expectant mothers and to children up to the age of five years.

During the year the following were the total issues made to infants and expectant mothers through the Council's clinics and to War-time Nursery Classes:—

	<i>Free.</i>	<i>Sold.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Cod Liver Oil	8392	3072	11464
Orange Juice	4936	38192	43128
Tablets (C.L.O.)	1340	730	2070

Residential Nursery, Formby.—This Residential Nursery, which was opened on 5th December 1945 for the reception of twenty-two infants, has been a valuable addition to the maternity and child welfare scheme in that it has accommodated the infants of mothers who are in hospital or maternity home, as well as the infants of mothers whose economic status makes it necessary for the child to be temporarily cared for away from home.

During the year 97 children were admitted, 90 were discharged and 17 were in residence on 31st December 1946. The admissions included 46 children below the age of two years, and 51 children between the ages of two and five years, and of those discharged during the year 53 had a stay not exceeding five weeks, 27 remained for 5—10 weeks, 7 for 10—15 weeks, and 3 others made stays up to 30 weeks.

Of the admissions during the year 64 were in respect of the mother's confinement, 6 in respect of the mother's illness, 10 on account of the necessity for the unmarried mother to take outside work, and 17 because of other social or economic difficulties.

The only incident of medical interest during the year was an outbreak of measles commencing on 17th July introduced by a recent admission at a time when measles was prevalent in the district; in spite of the prompt administration of immune globulin all the susceptible children contracted the illness in one or other of the three waves of infection which subsequently developed.

The Nursery is a training centre for the Certificate of the National Nursery Examination Board, and eight nursery students are engaged on the two years' course of training.

Litherland Day Nursery.—During the year intimation was received from Lancashire County Council that, as from 1st April, they could no longer admit Bootle children to their Day Nursery at Litherland unless this Authority accepted financial responsibility for such cases. Accordingly the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee decided to accept responsibility in 12 approved cases, 11 of whom were still in attendance at the end of the year. The mother's need for employment was the deciding factor for acceptance; in 5 cases the children were of parents who were living apart, in 6 instances the children were of unmarried women, and in the remaining case the child was an orphan in the care of its widowed grandmother who was in regular work.

Nursing in the Home.—By agreement the services of the Bootle District Nurses' Association are available for the nursing in their own homes of patients suffering from puerperal fever, measles, whooping cough, epidemic diarrhoea, ophthalmia neonatorum, pneumonia, and poliomyelitis. During the year 2,468 visits were paid to 192 cases.

Convalescent Home Provision.—The usual provision was made in the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee's estimates for grants towards the cost of treatment in convalescent homes for children under the age of five years. During the year, 12 children under five years of age and 125 children over that age received such convalescent treatment.

Child Life Protection.—The powers in respect of the reception of children under the age of nine years for reward conferred on the Council by the Public Health Act, 1936, are administered through the Health Visitors, who supervised the general health and well-being of three such children who were on the register on 31st December 1946.

Care of Illegitimate Children.—The numbers of illegitimate births registered in the Borough in the years from 1940 onwards have been as follows:—47, 51, 69, 88, 120 and 119; and during the year 1946 there were 105.

Special arrangements for the care of illegitimate children have been operating for three years. They provide for one of the Health Visitors accepting responsibility for taking all possible and necessary action to help the unmarried mother and to safeguard the illegitimate child.

Some 19 cases were referred from ante-natal clinics, 24 from Walton Hospital, and others, making 60 in all, from welfare agencies or on their own application before the birth of the infants. With these and 31 other cases coming to notice after birth, 91 cases were supervised during the year by means of 1,788 home visits plus 180 private interviews and 26 visits to institutions, homes or nurseries. The final disposition of the infants was retention by the mother in 52 instances, legal adoption in 8, and by care in institutions or by relatives, or by removal or death in the remainder.

Adoption of Children.—Nineteen persons gave notice of intention to make arrangements for the adoption of a child during the year under Section 7 of the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939, and five children were under supervision at the end of the year. The cases received the necessary care and attention by the Health Visiting staff who paid 57 visits: and the department co-operates fully with Adoption Societies and the Liverpool Welfare Organisations.

Cleanliness of Young Children.—The Health Visitors have continued to devote attention to the education of mothers in the importance of cleanliness and freedom from vermin, and to the examination

of heads of children under five years of age, in the homes and in the clinics, concentrating on those homes known to be in most need of help.

The following table sets out the results noted during the year, although in view of the selection made the figures should not be taken as reflecting the general position in the Borough.

(a) INSPECTION IN HOMES.

		0-1 years.		1-3 years.		3-5 years.
Number examined	... ..	851	...	471	...	662
No. with few " nits "	... ..	7	...	128	...	233
No. with " nits " more numerous		—	...	8	...	9
No. with lice and " nits "	... ..	—	...	9	...	8

(b) INSPECTION IN CLINICS.

		0-1 years.		1-3 years.		3-5 years.
Number examined	... ..	806	...	173	...	125
No. with few " nits "	... ..	—	...	54	...	41
No. with " nits " more numerous		—	...	2	...	1
No. with lice and " nits "	... ..	—	...	—	...	—

The Liverpool Child Welfare Association.—This Association has continued to send workers to Bootle on five mornings each week to facilitate the arrangements for dealing with recommendations of the medical staff of the Council or private doctors for the provision of surgical appliances, clothing, fireguards, cod liver oil, extra nourishment, or convalescent home treatment, to infants and school children.

During the year the Association dealt with 166 new cases (50 under 5 years and 116 over 5 years); 137 children were sent to Convalescent Homes, with an average stay in hospital for 12 children under five of 44·3 days and for 125 over five years of 34·3 days; in addition 20 babies were admitted to the Royal Liverpool Babies' Hospital, Woolton, with an average stay of 39·4 days.

The staff paid 2,210 visits and the interviews totalled 941.

Domestic and Home Helpers.—It became practicable early in 1946 to establish a service of domestic assistance to maternity cases and to persons sick or infirm (whether through old age or otherwise) who are unable to obtain such help, and a staff of two full-time and four part-time workers is now employed.

During the year 17 persons were assisted by home helpers (maternity cases) and 32 cases were assisted by domestic helpers (general sickness), and 1,306 hours and 3,493 hours respectively were worked by the staff in these cases.

IX. HOUSING.

Estimate of Housing Needs.—The Annual Report for 1942 gave details under several headings showing that a responsible estimate of present housing needs approximates to 3,000 houses, with an ultimate requirement, which will be determined later by the nature and extent of re-planning, of the order of 7,000. By 31st December 1946 the number of applications for Corporation tenancies which had been received was 3,924, excluding applications which are on the Re-housing Department's waiting list; this number is 599 more than were registered at 31st January 1946. Of these applications 2,907 were from non-householders and 1,117 were from householders. In 1,433 cases applications were from families or persons living in one room and 1,144 from families or persons living in two rooms.

Housing Provision.—The Council is receiving an allocation of 850 of the various types of pre-fabricated temporary bungalows, and 76 of these were erected by the Ministry of Works during 1945 and 451 during 1946; by the end of April 1947 some additional 45 had been erected and handed over, and there therefore remain 271 in course of erection and to be erected on agreed sites, plus 7 which may be erected on a site, the use of which has not been confirmed.

With regard to permanent houses erected by the Corporation during 1946, 15 houses replacing war-destroyed houses and 8 new bungalows for old age pensioners were completed. By the end of April 1947 a further 19 houses replacing war-destroyed houses and 8 new bungalows and 2 new houses were completed. Further schemes are in progress for the erection of 82 new dwellings, together with the completion of 51 additional dwellings replacing war-destroyed houses. Schemes are in course of preparation for the erection of 4-5,000 permanent houses on sites in the Neighbourhood Unit No. 6 which is situated partly in Bootle and partly within the area of the West Lancashire Rural District.

By private owners 15 houses replacing war-destroyed houses were completed in 1946 and a further 10 were completed up to the end of April 1947. Further schemes are in progress for the erection of 54

houses destroyed by enemy action, and it is likely that the reconstruction of a further 5 houses will be licensed during the year, so completing the replacement of "costs of works" houses as agreed by the War Damage Commission to date.

Inspection of War-Damaged Houses.—During the year visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to 12 houses in private ownership in respect of war damage, and a report and recommendation suitable to the conditions found in each case was forwarded to the Borough Engineer for his attention.

Further, 34 houses requisitioned for accommodating families rendered homeless were inspected and reports on conditions found together with recommendations were forwarded to the Town Clerk and the Borough Engineer.

X. BLIND WELFARE.

The duties of the Council under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, are administered in accordance with a revised scheme and regulations which received the approval of the Minister of Health in April 1934.

Registration.—During the year the Council's Ophthalmic Surgeon held seven clinics and examined 22 cases including 7 registered cases whose blindness was confirmed. From this total of 22 examinations 10 cases were added to the register of blind persons; and there were also 6 transfer cases added. Twenty-three names were removed, one following decertification, 17 owing to death, and 5 to removal outside the Borough, leaving a total on the register at the end of 1946 of 141 persons as compared with 148 last year. One hundred and twenty of these were resident in the Borough, four were in special Residential Schools, and seventeen were in other institutions.

Residential Hostel.—Plans for the provision of hostel accommodation, referred to in previous reports, were completed during the year, and Connolly House was opened on 22nd August 1946 for the reception of blind persons who had been evacuated to a hostel at Southport, and of others whose physical or domestic circumstances made such accommodation desirable. The Hostel opened with seventeen residents, reduced by death to fifteen at the end of the year.

Employment and Instruction.—The registered blind are assisted and supervised by two Home Teachers giving the whole of their time to this work; during the year the Home Teachers paid 1,951 visits, gave

192 lessons at home, and disbursed the weekly money payments to necessitous cases; in addition one of the Home Teachers assisted with the care of the evacuated persons in the Southport Hostel until the opening of, and the transfer of these persons to, the new Hostel in Bootle on 22nd August 1946.

During the year efforts were continued in conjunction with the local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service to obtain employment in open industry for selected blind persons. At the end of the year eleven were so employed as a result of these and other efforts.

The Council was on December 31st 1946 assisting 83 unemployable blind (excluding blind evacuees) with money grants at a total weekly cost of £129 6s. 0d., the amount of relief being given varying from 7/6 and 7/- to 53/7 and 48/- weekly (excluding sighted dependants allowance), for males and females respectively, with the maximum being paid in seven cases (5 males and 2 females). In addition, eleven persons (10 males and one female) are employed at the Workshops for the Blind.

During the year twenty-one applications for certification of blindness in order to take advantage of the Wireless Telegraphy (Blind Persons Facilities) Act, 1926, were granted.

Domiciliary Medical Attendance.—In May 1937 the Council instituted a Domiciliary Medical Service for the (non-insured) registered blind by arrangement with local medical practitioners who agreed to enter their names on a panel and to provide medical attendance for a capitation fee of the same amount as that obtaining under the National Health Insurance Acts; necessary prescriptions are dispensed by a similar panel of private chemists. The scheme was extended in July 1946 to include dependants of blind persons not covered by National Health Insurance, at a capitation fee of 15/-. The scheme works smoothly and satisfactorily, and the cost to the Council for the financial year 1947-48 is estimated to be £80 for the blind persons and dependants entitled to benefit.

Provision of Wireless Installations.—Since October 1942 wireless installations have been provided for all blind persons in the Borough either through the local relay service or by battery sets. The service has been much appreciated and the cost to the Council for 1947-1948 is estimated to be £120

CAUSES OF DEATH

SUB-ENTRIES INCLUDED IN ABOVE FIGURES

[illegible]

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	(Certified) (Uncertified)	30	9	14	10	63	26	26	13	7	135
Small-pox	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Convulsions	...	1	—	2	1	4	3	—	—	—	7
Laryngitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	—	1	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	2	1	3	—	6	7	7	3	3	26
Diarrhoea	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Enteritis	...	—	1	2	2	5	6	7	2	3	23
Gastritis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Syphilis	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Suffocation, overlying	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Injury at Birth	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	...	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	5
Congenital Malformations	...	3	—	1	—	4	3	—	—	—	7
Premature Birth	...	16	4	4	5	29	2	—	—	—	31
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Other Causes	...	3	1	1	2	7	2	7	2	1	19
Totals		30	9	14	10	63	26	26	13	7	135

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate infants ... 1602
 { Illegitimate infants ... 135
 Nett Deaths in the year { Legitimate ... 124
 { Illegitimate ... 11

